

MAR 17 2021

63

## MINUTES

The Town of Manteo Board of Commissioners held their Recessed March 17, 2021 meeting at 5:00 p.m. at 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, NC and via teleconference.

The following members were present:

- Mayor Bobby Owens
- Mayor Pro-Tem Betty Selby
- Commissioner Darrell Collins (remote)
- Commissioner Eddie Mann (remote)
- Commissioner Jason Borland
- Commissioner Christine Walker (remote)

The following members were absent: Commissioner Richie Burke

Also present at the meeting were:

- Town Manager James Ayers
- Town Attorney Ben Gallop
- IT Director Carl Woody
- Town Planner Melissa Dickerson
- Town Clerk Jamie Whitley (remote)

Mayor Bobby Owens called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Town Manager Ayers did a roll call verifying that there was a quorum: Mayor Owens-present; Mayor Pro-Tem Selby-present; Commissioner Borland-present; Commissioner Collins-present (remote); Commissioner Mann-present (remote); Commissioner Walker-present (remote) and Commissioner Burke-absent (Called to Duty). A quorum was established.

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Agenda as presented or amended

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Selby and seconded by Commissioner Borland to approve the agenda as presented and was approved by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Selby, Commissioners Borland, Mann, Walker, and Collins. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Burke. **Motion carried.**

## PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

**SUBJECT:** Employee Service Award

Mr. Ayers was pleased to recognize Troy Tugwell for his 5 years of service in the Public Works Department. He has been serving in waterfront operations at the Downtown Marina. He worked in the private sector prior to his employment with the Town of Manteo. He is known for his strong work ethic and dedication to Manteo.

Mayor Owens stated that Troy's dad served as Mayor and a Commissioner for the Town of Manteo. He stated that he saw Troy moving trash cans on a Saturday and he goes above and beyond. Thank you, Troy.

64  
MAR 17 2021

**SUBJECT:** Department Head Reports

The Department Head written reports were given to the Board and are available on our website at [manteonc.gov](http://manteonc.gov) for the general public to review.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to address the Board of Commissioners on any topic. Public Comment is not intended to require the Board to answer any impromptu questions or to take any action on items brought up during the public comment period. Speakers will address all the comments to the Board as a whole and not one individual Commissioner. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed. Time limits are 3 minutes per person or 5 minutes per group. Please identify yourself and your location so that your statements can be recorded.*

Mr. Ayers let the public know that this section is for public comment and is not the Community Needs Assessment.

Jesse Davis - Manteo, NC: He did a presentation a year ago about the benefits of having a mountain bike trail. He asked the Board to consider mountain bike trails in the budget. He stated that there was a big turnout at a Kitty Hawk Town Hall Meeting of over 50 people that were in support of mountain bike trails. He stated that mountain bike trails will offer a safe place to bike.

Paul Henriques - Kitty Hawk, NC: He stated that he is the Chair of the Recreation Committee for Kitty Hawk. He stated that they worked on the project for the Coastal Reserve for 3 years. There was a Special Kitty Hawk Town Council Meeting to address the Coastal Reserve restricting the use of mountain bike on that property. The Town of Kitty Hawk voted unanimously to turn down a \$70,000 grant that would have restricted the use for that area. He stated that was a win for bikes. He stated that the updated North Carolina Recreational Master Plan references the popularity and the growth of mountain biking as a safe activity. He encouraged the Town of Manteo to fund and go after grants for a bike trail and then have volunteers build and maintain the bike trail.

Valerie Netsch - Nags Head, NC: She and her husband are avid cyclists. They have experienced some scary moments as cyclist so now they have fallen in love with off road riding. They travelled to Williamsburg, VA to ride at Freedom Park. She is asking and hoping that the towns will support the community and create safe cycling in nature. They are willing to volunteer to support the effort.

Robert Netsch - Nags Head, NC: He described the ride that he and his wife took in Freedom Park. He stated that Roanoke Island is a beautiful place and could work as a location. This could be a draw to have people come during the off season between November to April because people don't want to ride during the hot months because of bugs and snakes.

#9779 - Sonny Macaranas - Nags Head, NC: He is in support of biking and thinks that having a trail in Manteo will benefit all of Dare County and bring positivity to the area.



MAR 17 2021

65

## NEW BUSINESS

### SUBJECT: Community Needs Assessment

Mr. Ayers let the public know that they can view the budget and how their tax dollars have been spent. This is an effort to increase the opportunities for the public to comment in the budget process as early as possible. Some of the needs are general needs and they can help inform future ideas over a period of years. We have made outreach on this topic through newspaper ads, social media, kiosks, website postings and more.

We asked people who could not make the meeting to send in their comments before the meeting on this topic of community needs. We have had a comment on mountain biking, sidewalk connections, stormwater improvements, and assistance for the Cookhouse. The Town does have budgeted funds for the maintenance of the Cookhouse and the adjacent boat shed and lands. This request was for program activities at the Cookhouse. The Pea Island Cookhouse Museum is managed by its own organization, Pea Island Preservation Society, Inc (PIPSI). There information is on their website (<https://www.peaislandpreservationsociety.com/>) and it is on the Town's website as well. There was a request for more boat ramps in the area. We currently have a boat ramp that we maintain. There was a request for Veterans Healthcare, which is outside of our scope. We have made a referral to our contact in Veterans Services Office of Dare County to try and get some assistance for that person.

Tim Teeple - 410 Devon Street, Manteo, NC: Since Pirate Adventures left, we have dramatically lost youth and tourist. There used to be programs at the Boathouse such as Build-A-Boat and other kid programs that would bring more youth into the area. He would like to see something start back up at the Boathouse because it is a museum as well. It would be very beneficially for the area. Having worked with Dare County Parks and Recreation and being a former mountain bike rider, he thinks that a mountain bike area would be a great opportunity for the resident youth to recreate other than the skate park that is used very much. He would like to see some kind of educational experience come out of the Boathouse and the Build-A-Boat was a great program that all of the kids used to come to. He also wanted the Town to look at public restrooms because of the expansion of the parking lots. He stated that we only have two public restrooms and overall, this might become an issue.

### MAYOR'S/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

**Mayor Owens** - Thanked everyone for being here. He remembered that the gentleman's presentation on the mountain bikes last year was a good presentation. He didn't see why we couldn't start with a committee to get this organize to see where this could lead. It wouldn't cost much to get it started. He had put an ad in the newspaper about the bike trail years ago. He stated that this kind of bike riding in different and he doesn't know too much about it but we could look at organization and having a plan moving forward.

The Mayor stated that this is no reflection on Public Works Director Frankie Woodley because he and his crew work very hard and he has bosses that tell him what to do. He stated that the Town of Manteo is about the dirtiest that he has ever seen it. He stated that we have a big construction project going on and it could be cleaned up as they go and it may be the contractor's

MAR 17 2021

66

fault, he doesn't know but someone needs to clean it up. We need to do a better job on the streets because they use to be immaculate and now, they are not. He doesn't care if he makes some people mad because this is how he feels.

**Commissioner Walker** - She agreed with the Mayor about the trash and the litter that she has seen walking through Town. From the COA (College of the Albemarle) project to the Town Common project and partly from the wind, there is so much trash and litter everywhere that it does look really bad.

Mayor Owens stated that the flag pole in the cemetery is gone. He suggested to Commissioner Walker that maybe a flag pole can be placed for the whole cemetery but he will let the Cemetery Board handle that.

Commissioner Walker thought that was a great idea.

**Commissioner Collins** - He remember that the people had come to the Board before about the bike trails and he wanted the Board to look at it more deeply. We might get the Town Manager involved to see what he can do as finding places in Town that we could possibly build a trail. He agreed with the Mayor that it wouldn't cost much to get it going and then the bikers can take it over after that.

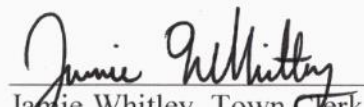
**Commissioner Borland** - After the mountain bike presentation last year, everyone was like yeah, we should do it and then so much started going on and we didn't stay on it. It has been a crazy year but this is such a low cost and high impact thing. Besides travel revenue, it would benefit local use on nice days in January and February. He thanked the people for staying on this because that is what it takes.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Selby** - She volunteered to be the Commissioner liaison for a committee for the mountain bike trail. She will give them her cards and will work with the Town Manager to get this going. She thanked them for coming.

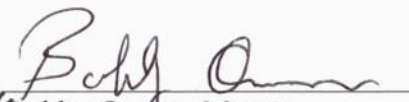
There being no further business to come before the Board or other persons to be heard a motion was made by Commissioner Borland and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Selby and the meeting was recessed at 5:41 p.m. until March 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. for the budget planning retreat that will be in the Outer Banks Visitors Center Boardroom. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Mayor Pro-Tem Selby, Commissioners Walker, Collins, Mann and Borland. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Burke. **Motion carried.**

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

ATTEST:

  
Jamie Whitley, Town Clerk



  
Bobby Owens, Mayor